
NEWS RELEASE

Judd Gregg



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\$10.65 MILLION FOR NH CONSERVATION EFFORTS GETS FINAL CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL

Senator Gregg includes \$8 million for former IP lands and support for WMNF land acquisitions

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH) announced that with the President's signature yesterday on the Fiscal Year 2003 Omnibus Appropriations Conference Report, \$10.65 million in federal dollars for six Granite State environmental projects is heading to New Hampshire. The projects include \$8,000,000 for the purchase of a conservation easement on the Connecticut Lakes Headwaters land; \$1,000,000 for the Silvio O. Conte Wildlife Refuge; \$600,000 for land acquisition along the Lamprey River; \$500,000 for trailhead protection in the White Mountain National Forest; \$300,000 to purchase sensitive tracts of the Great Bay National Estuary; and \$250,000 for the Northern Forest Heritage Canoe Trail. Senator Gregg was also able to include a \$2 million increase to assist organizations like the White Mountains National Forest to streamline their utilization of existing Land and Water Conservation Fund monies.

Senator Gregg stated, "Some of our state's most prized resources are the tremendous natural places we are able to enjoy. And in the true spirit of New Hampshire, these projects were initiated and are driven by local and state leaders who seize opportunities to preserve beautiful areas of land to the benefit of all residents and visitors."

Walter Graff, Deputy Director of the Appalachian Mountain Club, stated, "No one stands taller than Senator Gregg when it comes to protecting open space in New Hampshire. Time and time again he has led the fight in the Senate to protect New Hampshire's precious landscape. We applaud his efforts to secure the necessary funds to protect the Connecticut Lakes headwaters for future generations not only for its ecological value but as a working forest and a place for enjoyment and solitude."

Daryl Burnett, New Hampshire State Director of The Nature Conservancy, stated, "We owe Senator Gregg a tremendous debt of gratitude for his vision and hard work in securing this critically important funding. The Forest Legacy Program is an important tool for assuring that future generations will enjoy protected forests that support rich diversity of life, scenic beauty, recreational opportunities and important natural resources. The protection of the entire headwaters of the Connecticut River that this funding helps make possible protects water, wildlife, forests at a tremendous scale; it is truly a national treasure."

See attached fact sheet for additional information.

Fiscal Year 2003 Omnibus Appropriations Bill, New Hampshire Environmental Projects
Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH), Member, Interior Appropriations subcommittee

\$8 million – Connecticut Lakes Headwaters Land – This award will serve as the second and final payment towards the purchase of a conservation easement on the 171,500 acre tract of land in Pittsburg, Clarksville and Stewartstown which was purchased by the Trust for Public Land earlier this year. Senator Gregg served as co-chairman of the Connecticut Lakes Headwaters Partnership Task Force Steering Committee and has worked to ensure the continuation of the multi-use tradition of this tract of land. This project offers the rare opportunity to conserve large unbroken tracts of contiguous working forest and will protect the traditional recreational uses of the land by preserving opportunities for the public to continue hunting, fishing, hiking, and snowmobiling on the property. Senator Gregg secured \$3.6 million as an initial installment in Fiscal Year 2002.

\$1 million – Silvio O. Conte Wildlife Refuge – The Conte Refuge was established to protect diverse and abundant native species throughout the 7,200,000 acre watershed for the Connecticut River. These funds will protect important animal habitat and scenic vistas throughout the region that has the potential to be degraded or lost to development.

\$600,000 – Lamprey Wild and Scenic River – The National Park Service currently administers 34 segments and more than 2,600 miles of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The \$600,000 award will provide for land acquisition along this federally-designated Wild & Scenic river. The Lamprey, running through portions of Durham, Lee and Epping, received this designation based on the comprehensive local-State-Federal partnership management approach currently in place which entails no land ownership or physical presence by the National Park Service. The Lamprey River Advisory Committee is identifying significant conservation easement opportunities on farm and forestlands within the rapidly developing river corridor and throughout the watershed. Senator Gregg was able to secure \$500,000 for the Lamprey in Fiscal Year 2002.

\$500,000 – WMNF Trailhead Protection – Following last year's award of \$1.5 million Senator Gregg has secured an additional \$500,000 for trailhead protection in the White Mountains. Historically, a variety of arrangements ranging from formal permission to legally established rights-of-way have ensured continuous public access across private property within or abutting the White Mountain National Forest. However, informal arrangements are no longer sufficient to protect public access over the long-term and even rights-of-way do not protect the land itself. Senator Gregg continues to work with the WMNF to prioritize target parcels of land that are best suited for better public access through a protected trail system.

\$300,000 – Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge – The Refuge will use this award through the Land and Water Conservation Fund for land acquisition at the 35-acre Fabian Point in Newington. Fabian Point borders the eastern boundary of the Refuge forming a peninsula that would complete ownership of Herrod's Cove on Great Bay protecting an additional mile of shoreline. The Refuge received an award for \$1.2 million in last year's bill.

\$250,000 – Northern Forest Heritage Canoe Trail – The development of the Trail will not only improve access to rivers and encourage canoe recreation in northern New Hampshire, but will also increase awareness of the need to protect our environmentally sensitive historical landmarks. The trail is a 740 mile canoe trail stretching from the Adirondacks of upstate New York to northern Maine. These funds will help ensure that the entire length of the trail is passable by canoe with special attention paid to historic landmarks or portages and securing the availability of overnight accommodations for the duration of the trail. The NFCT is aiming to create an educational resource for trail visitors and local residents as well as create a system for managing the upkeep of the trail.

Land Acquisition Logistical Support in WMNF – Funding for the White Mountain National Forest Lands Program Administrative Budget is needed to assist the White Mountains National Forest in streamlining its utilization of existing Land and Water Conservation Fund monies. Senator Gregg has helped to secure a \$2 million increase in this administrative budget nationwide which should be sufficient to undertake the program in an efficient manner. It is estimated that the administrative costs for acquiring a single trailhead area costs between \$30,000 and \$60,000. Many currently-funded projects have been put on hold, due to funding shortfalls in the WMNF administrative budget.

